

Expectations: A Wonder-Full Christmas?

*"All I Want For Christmas", Part 2 of 3
Pastor Vince DiPaola*

"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you... Don't be afraid, Mary, because God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High God.'"

(Luke 1:26-28,30-32a, NIV&TEV)

Mary's Spiritual Journey To A "Wonder-full" Christmas

Stage 1) ___ TROUBLED ___ about it.

"Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what His words meant."

(Luke 1:29, TEV)

Stage 2) ___ PUZZLED ___ over it.

"'How can this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'"

(Luke 1:34, NIV)

Stage 3) ___ CONSIDERATE ___ of it.

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her mind."

(Luke 2:19, NIV)

Stage 4) ___ MARVELING ___ at it.

"[Simeon] said... 'Lord... now I can die content!... I have seen the Savior You have given to the world. He is The Light... Joseph and Mary just stood there, marveling at what was being said about Jesus.'"

(Luke 2:29-33, LB)

Stage 5) ___ COMMITTED ___ to it.

"You believed that God would do what he said; that is why He has given you this wonderful blessing."

(Luke 1:45, LB)

"Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true.'"

(Luke 1:38, LB)